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Summary record of the 39th meeting
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Chairman: Ms. Stoica (Vice-Chair) ..... (Romania)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Kelapile

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 143: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/65/800 and A/65/830; A/C.5/65/16)

1. **Mr. Mutiso** (Director, Field Budget and Finance Division, Department of Field Support), introducing the Secretary-General's report on reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment (A/65/800), said that the management and reimbursement system for such equipment must be reviewed and updated periodically to keep pace with the constantly changing environment of peacekeeping operations, to deliver more effectively and efficiently, to meet the expectations of the Member States and to respond to the challenges facing troop and police contributing countries.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/19B, the Secretariat had convened a meeting of the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment from 17 to 28 January 2011 in order to conduct a comprehensive review of reimbursement rates and update the categories of major equipment, self-sustainment and medical support services. In its report on that review (A/C.5/65/16) , the 2011 Working Group had recommended net average increases in reimbursement rates of 1.3 per cent for major equipment, including medical equipment, and of 2.1 per cent for self-sustainment, including medical support services. The impact of those increases on the annual peacekeeping budget was estimated at $15.6 million, based on deployment levels as at 1 March 2011.

3. The 2011 Working Group had recommended that special case reimbursement rates should be reviewed at each triennial Working Group meeting and that the revision of special case reimbursement rates should be linked to the average revision in major equipment rates recommended by the Working Group. The Secretariat estimated that implementation of that recommendation would cost $206,129 per annum.

4. The 2011 Working Group had recommended the addition of one portable X-ray machine and one ultrasound machine to the major equipment list of level II hospitals. The estimated annual costs, assuming the supply of such equipment to all level II facilities, were $187,920 for the X-ray machines and $125,280 for the ultrasound machines It had further recommended that an orthopaedic module and a gynaecology module should be added to level II hospitals as additional capabilities. The estimated annual costs, assuming the provision of such modules for half of the level II facilities, were $120,000 for the orthopaedic module and $22,656 for the gynaecology module.

5. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly were set out in section IV of the report. Should the General Assembly approve, with effect from 1 July 2011, the recommendations of the 2011 Working Group, additional resource requirements estimated at $16.3 million would be reported in the context of individual peacekeeping operations' financial performance reports for the 2011/12 period, at which time additional appropriations could be sought from the General Assembly, if necessary.

6. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's related report (A/65/830), said that the Advisory Committee recommended approval of the proposals of the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned equipment, as set out in the Secretary-General's report. The Secretariat had informed it that the resulting additional resource requirements, estimated at $16.3 million, would be met, to the extent possible, through reprioritization of approved resources for the individual peacekeeping missions.

7. Recalling the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Permanent Missions of troop- and police-contributing countries should be given secure access to the permanent mission web module no later than the end of 2011, he said that the Advisory Committee had received details of how that module would utilized and managed, and trusted that the information it contained with regard to the countries concerned would remain strictly confidential.

8. **Mr. Di Luca** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that, despite the high expectations that had preceded the meeting of the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment and the recognition by the Secretariat, by troop-contributing countries and by Member States of the gap between peacekeeping mandates and the equipment available to missions, the results of the meeting had

been fallen well below the Group's expectations. Nonetheless, the Group recognized that, while some important issues had been left unresolved, the report was the product of arduous negotiation and reflected the consensus among the members of the 2011 Working Group.

9. The troop-contributing countries that were members of the Group of 77 and China provided over 85 per cent of the troops currently serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Those countries had clearly indicated that it was impossible to sustain complex peacekeeping operations without a reassessment of the resources required for their adequate functioning. It was also imperative to enhance the terms and conditions under which troop-contributing countries provided the Organization with human and material resources.

10. The question of the reimbursement rates for troop-contributing countries demanded urgent attention if the Group's members were to continue participating in peacekeeping operations. He therefore urged Member States to give the matter serious consideration.

Agenda item 129: Programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (*continued*) (A/65/328/Add.7 and A/65/602/Add.2)

11. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/65/328/Add.7), said that the Panel of Experts on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had been established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), in which the Council had requested the Secretary-General to create, for an initial period of one year, in consultation with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1970 (2011), a group of up to eight experts, under the direction of the latter.

12. The estimated requirements of the Panel of Experts for the period from 1 April to 31 December 2011 amounted to $2,126,800 net ($2,156,900 gross). Those resources would provide for salaries and common staff costs of two general temporary assistance-funded positions (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) to provide substantive and administrative support to the Panel, fees and travel ($915,600) of the eight experts, and other operational costs.

13. The mandate for the activities of the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions was based on an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, the latest of which were contained in S/2010/103 and S/2011/279.

14. The resource requirements of the United Nations Representative for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2011 amounted to $1,469,000 net ($1,590,600 gross). Those resources would provide for the establishment of seven positions, including the post of the Representative at the Assistant Secretary-General level and a support team consisting of 3 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level) staff, as well as for operational costs.

15. The combined requirements for the two missions amounted to $3,595,800 net or $3,747,500, including staff assessment. The action requested of the General Assembly was set out in paragraph 24 of the report.

16. **Mr. Kelapile** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's related report (A/65/602/Add.2), said that although the Secretary-General, in his report, had sought resources for the Panel of Experts on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the period from 1 April to 31 December, the Advisory Committee had been informed that the Panel was not expected to begin its work until June 2011. Consequently, the Secretary-General had provided revised estimates for the period from 1 June to 31 December 2011 totalling approximately $1.7 million. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the revised budget for the Panel of Experts, including the establishment of two posts.

17. The Advisory Committee also recommended approval of the proposed budget for the United Nations Representative to the Geneva International Discussions in the amount of $1,590,600 gross, including the establishment of seven positions.

18. The Advisory Committee noted that, for both proposed special political missions, the Secretary-General had initially authorized commitments under

the unforeseen and extraordinary expenses mechanism. Had that mechanism been used to fund the Panel of Experts, a new entity, until the end of the biennium, approximately $3.5 million would have remained available to the Secretary-General for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses without requiring the Advisory Committee's prior concurrence. The Advisory Committee questioned why the Secretary-General had not exercised that authority, particularly given that, under General Assembly resolution 64/246 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2010–2011, he also had recourse to additional commitments, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee.

19. The Advisory Committee recommended that the resources for the activities of the Panel of Experts and the United Nations Representative should be absorbed within the overall appropriation approved for special political missions for the biennium 2010-2011.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.